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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3104

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA-CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSES PANEL OF JURISTS, ETC. AT SEPTEMBER 16 MEETINGS

REF: USUN 3103

1. SUMMARY: AT TWO SESSIONS ON SEPTEMBER 16, THE CONTACT GROUP AGREED TO SEVERAL NON-CONTROVERSIAL CHANGES IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE SECURITY PLAN (REFTEL) CENTERING AROUND THE UN MILITARY ROLE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD; REJECTED A CANADIAN SUGGESTION THAT THE CONCEPT OF A PANEL OF JURISTS BE ABANDONED IN THE FACE OF SWAPO OBJECTIONS; AND DELEGATED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO US TO DO FURTHER WORK ON A FRENCH TIMETABLE OF STEPS LEADING TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. THE SESSIONS DEMONSTRATED THAT MUCH DETAIL WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CONTACT GROUP'S TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS NEXT WEEK IN PRETORIA.
END SUMMARY.

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2. AS AN AID TO END-USERS, USUN HAS SEPARATELY CABLED
THE COMPLETE REVISED TEXT OF TALKING POINTS TO BE
USED NEXT WEEK BY THE CONTACT GROUP IN PRETORIA. PLEASE NOTE
THAT WE HAVE SUPERIMPOSED ROMAN NUMERALS ON THE EXISTING COMPL-
ICATED PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE. THE FOLLOWING AD REFERENDUM
CHANGES ARE KEYED TO THESE ROMAN NUMERABLS.

3. IN THE INTERESTS OF ACCURACY, ITEM (A) OF PARAGRAPH
NOW READS "SOUTH AFRICA HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO
CONSIDER A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF ITS MILITARY FORCES,
SUBJECT TO AN UNDERTAKING BY SWAPO TO CEASE ARMED ACTION AND
TO CLOSE ITS CAMPS."

4. PARAGRAPH XXXIII CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH
AFRICAN FORCES IN THREE (OR POSSIBLY 4) MONTHS RATHER THAN
FIVE MONTHS.

5. THE UK PROPOSED TO INSERT THE WORKDS "IF NECESSARY"
AFTER "ASSISTING" IN ITEM D OF PARAGRAPH XXXIV. AT THE
US SUGGESTION, TO CONTACT GROUP ACCEPTED "AS NECESSARY, "
INSTEAD, IN ORDER TO GIVE THE UN SOMEWHAT MORE FREEDOM
OF ACTION IN THIS VITAL AREA.

6. ALSO IN PARAGRAPH XXXIV, THE CONTACT GROUP TOOK
THE POINT OF PRETORIA 4811 AND
ADDED THE FOLLOWING: "DURING THIS PROCESS, SWAPO MEMBERS
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WOULD RETURN WITHOUT ARMS TO PARTICIPATE PEACEFULLY
IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

7. AT THE CANADIANS' SUGGESTION, FORMER ITEM E OF
PARAGRAPH XXXV WAS PLACED IN A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH. THE
CANADIANS THOUGHT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NAMIBIAN ARMY
WAS OF A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ORDER THAN THE UN'S OTHER SECURITY
TASKS, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THE UN HAD A ROLE HERE TOO.

8. CONSIDERING THE FRENCH DRAFT TIMETABLE OF STEPS LEADING
TO INDEPENDENCE, THE CONTACT GROUP TOOK NOTE OF SEVERAL
SUGGESTIONS BUT ULTIMATELY SET ASIDE THE FRENCH PAPER
BECAUSE IT WAS TOO VAGUE AND MADE NO MENTION OF THE
WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS. THE CONTACT
GROUP BELIEVED THAT THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF TROOP
WITHDRAWALS AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS WAS ESSENTIAL
TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WESTERN INITIATIVE AND MUST
BE DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY IN ANY TIMETABLE USED BY THE
CONTACT GROUP IN ITS FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH SWAPO AND
THE SOUTH AFRICANS. THE CONTACT GROUP TURNED, INSTEAD, TO
A PREVIOUS US DRAFT AND AGREED TO USE IT AS THE STARTING
POINT FOR A REVISED TIMETABLE TO BE PREPARED BY THE US AND

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CONSIDERED AT A CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19.

9. IN THEIR TIMETABLE, THE FRENCH PROPOSED TO COMPRESS THE PERIOD FROM THE INCEPTION OF SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION TO THE FORMATION OF A NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT TO EIGHT MONTHS; THE FIRST MONTH TO BE DEVOTED TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN ROLE; THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH MONTHS TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN; THE FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH MONTHS TO THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF; AND THE EIGHT MONTH TO THE MEETING OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN THE FRENCH TIMETABLE, IT WAS ASSUMED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A RESIDUAL FORCE, WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE FOURTH MONTH. THERE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG BRITISH AND CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH IDEA OF A SHORTENED ELECORAL CAMPAING. WE POINTED OUT THAT SWAPO HD INSISTED UPON HAVING AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN WHICH TO CAMPAIGN, ADDING, HOWEVER,THAT AN ACCELERATED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL MIGHT HELP SWAPO TO ACCEPT A SHORTER ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THE UK'S RICHARDSON WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER HIS PRINCIPALS IN LONDON MIGHT NOT PREFER TO START THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN EVEN BEFORE THE LAST SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A RESIDUAL FORCE) HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN, AND HE ASKED US MISOFFS TO KEEP THAT IN MIND IN DRAWING UP A NEW TIMETABLE. (WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO.) THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THE LENGTH OF THE CAMPAIGN.

10. THE CANADIANS HAD COME TO THE MEETINGS WITH A SUGGESTION THAT, BECAUSE SWAPO HAD RASIED OBJECTIONS TO THE PANEL OF JURISTS, THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD DROP THE IDEA. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, INCLUDING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PANEL SERVED A USEFUL FUNCTION AND SHOULD BE RETAINED. IT WAS AGREED TO SUGGEST TO CAPITALS THAT THE CONTACT GROUP MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SWAPO APPROVAL OF THE PANEL. IF SWAPO DID NOT ACCEPT THE PANEL IN ITS PRESENT FORM, THE CONTACT GROUP AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY A DIFFERENT FORMULATION OF SWAPO, AS FOLLOWS: INSTEAD OF TWO SOUTH AFRICAN AND TWO NON-SOUTH AFRICAN JURISTS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD STAFF THE PANEL WITH FOUR JURISTS FROM POLITICALLY NEUTRAL COUNTRIES. THIS FORMULATION MEETS SWAPO'S OBJECTIONS BY ELIMINATING THE SOUTH AFRICANS, WHILE PRESERVING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PANEL.

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11. THE NEXT WORKING MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19 AT THE US MISSION, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE CONTACT GROUP'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM.
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